

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Patricia Anderson
State Auditor

MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR
WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

Description of the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor serves as a watchdog for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity, accountability, and cost-effectiveness in local governments throughout the state.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 250 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 4,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

Audit Practice - conducts financial and legal compliance audits for local governments;

Government Information - collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

Legal/Special Investigations - provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

Pension - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for over 700 public pension funds; and

Tax Increment Financing, Investment and Finance - promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employee's Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

Office of the State Auditor
525 Park Street, Suite 500
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
(651) 296-2551
state.auditor@state.mn.us
www.auditor.state.mn.us

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**WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2004



Management and Compliance Report

**Audit Practice Division
Office of the State Auditor
State of Minnesota**

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**WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA**

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WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Schedule 1

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

I. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM RESOLVED

Bidding (03-1)

In the prior year, the District entered into a contract for air release valves that exceeded \$50,000 without soliciting for sealed bids by public notice. Minn. Stat. § 475.345 requires public entities to solicit sealed bids by public notice for any contracts expected to exceed \$50,000.

Resolution

During the current audit, we noted no instances of contracts that exceeded \$50,000 which had not been formally bid.

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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

PATRICIA ANDERSON
STATE AUDITOR

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Board of Directors
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

We have audited the financial statements of the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated April 6, 2005. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of

financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government* contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our study included all of the listed categories.

The results of our tests indicate that, for the items tested, the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Pat Anderson

PATRICIA ANDERSON
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

End of Fieldwork: April 6, 2005